



Terrenus Ortus 12" by 10"



Upon Closer Examination

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Over the past two years, I have been utilizing metalsmithing and jewelry to give form to environmental topics that directly effect our population. We live in a fast-paced world where daily compromises disregard the best practices for a safe environment to ensure that business is speedy and life is easy. I have developed a passion for raising awareness to global issues by creating tangible works of art that can serve as a daily reminder about our impact on the world.

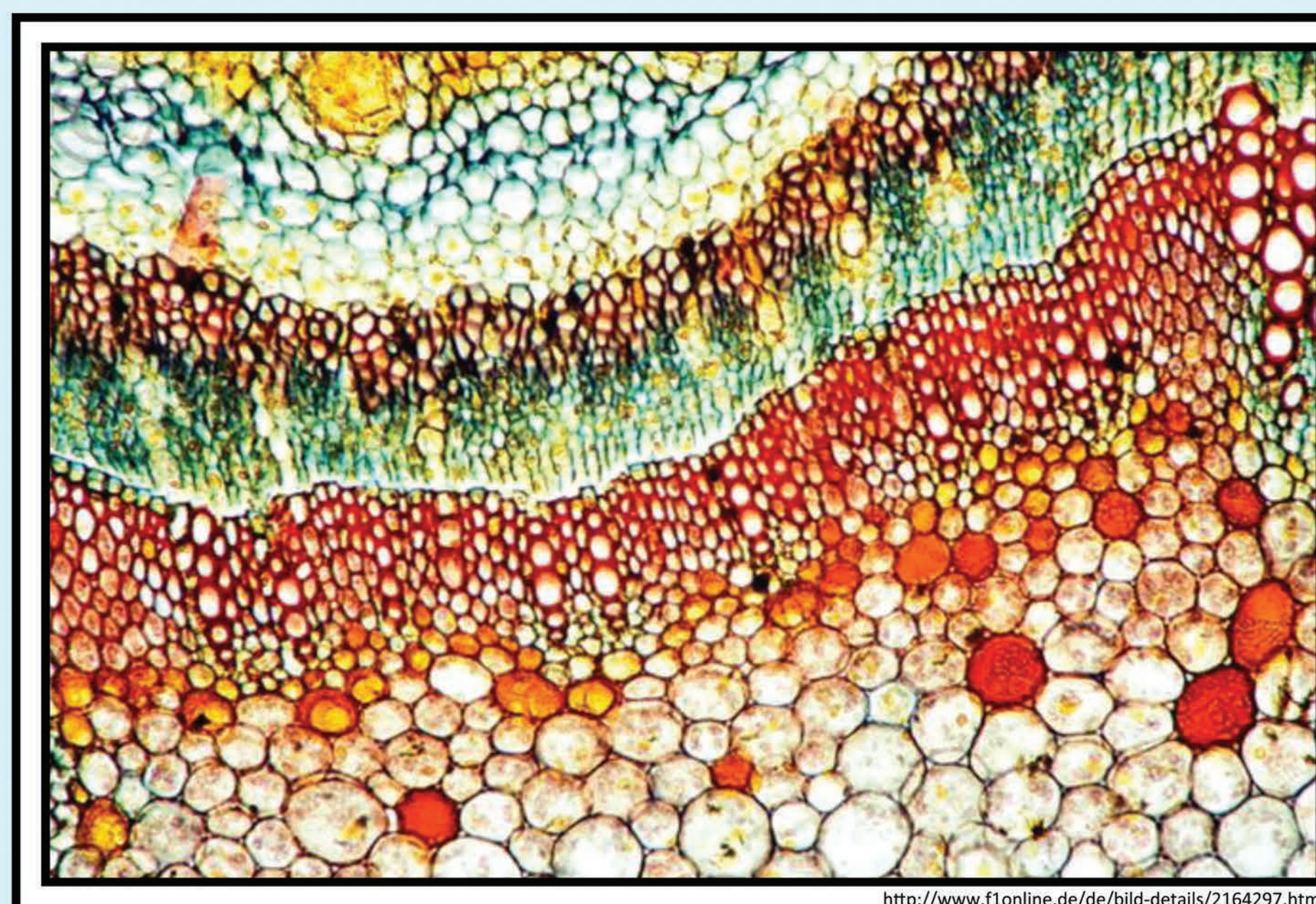


Requiem Mundi 14" by 12"



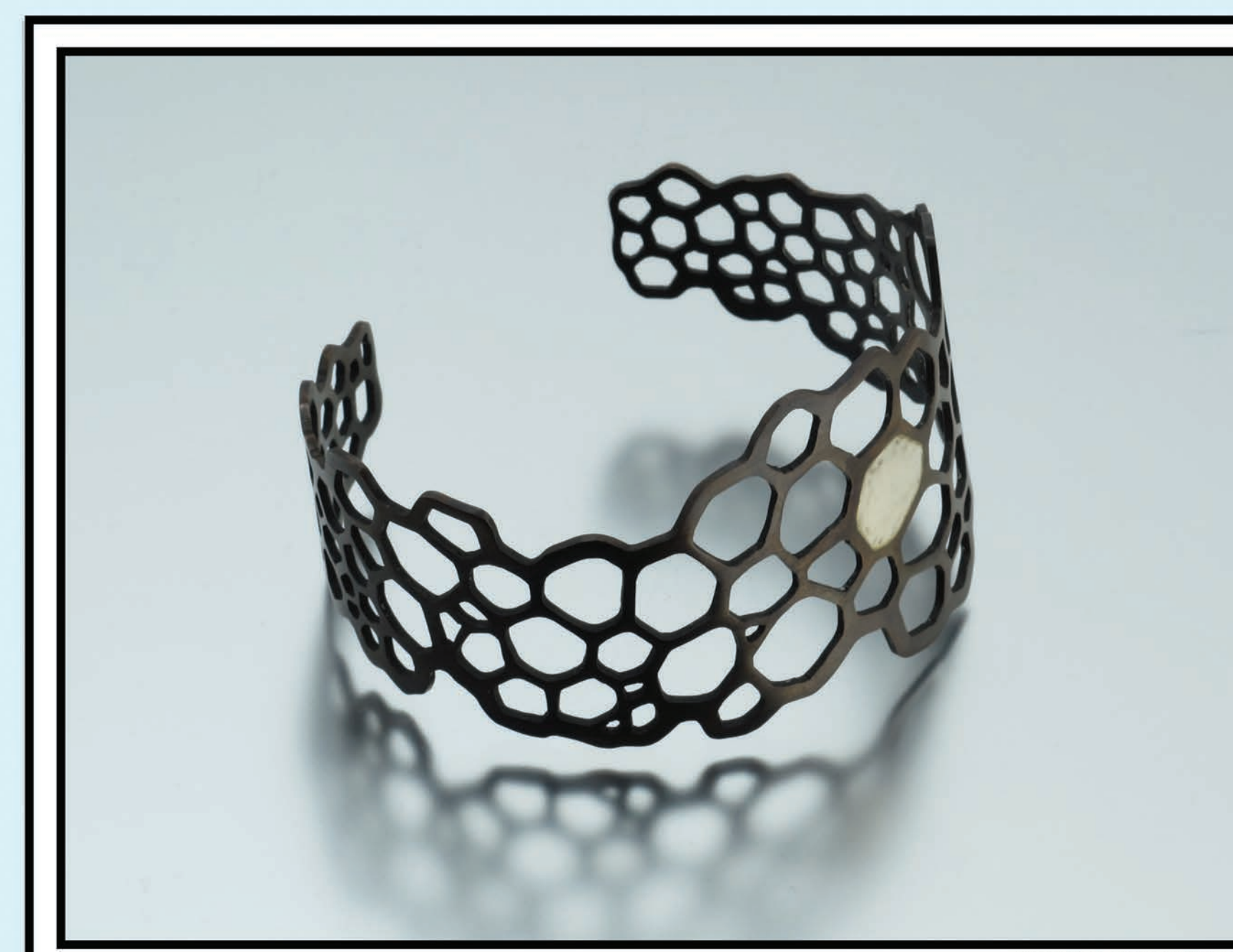
Organismal 2" by 4"

The worldwide threat to the honeybee population inspired me to create the work, *Requiem Mundi* in 2012. The title translates in Latin to "a funerary gathering of the World." Insecticides and other man-made and natural afflictions are some of the suspected causes in this mysterious occurrence called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The chemicals we use block neurotransmitters in the brains of pollinating insects, causing them to become disoriented.¹



<http://www.f1online.de/de/hold-detail/2164797.html>

In order for our nation's economy to thrive, our crops must grow without the affliction caused by infectious, making pesticides necessary. However, while trying to protect our crops by killing intruders, we often damage the insects that are vital to our survival. This concern drew my interests to plants and crops, which lie at the center of this issue. *Organismal* and *Identity* are both inspired by microscopic images of plant stem cells.



Identity 2.5" by 1.5" by 2"

After the consideration of a microscopic look at plants, a macro view of our planet's geology was the next logical examination. We need oil to ensure that the world economy is running smoothly at the pace it needs to be, but we are destroying the environment by careless extraction methods. Because of our energy dependence, most of society accepts the ramifications of oil drilling and transportation in order to maintain a comfortable lifestyle. I wanted to create jewelry that represented these occurrences, so that we are constantly aware or at least reminded of the way we will leave the planet behind. The series of wearable belt buckles *Pollution*, *Fracking*, and *Oil Spill* allow the wearer to carry with them the environmental concerns of today's culture.



Pollution 3.5" by 2.5"

Fracking 2.5" by 2.5"

Oil Spill 3" by 2"

As a representation of the wearer's personality, jewelry can be a powerful canvas for starting a conversation or raising needed questions about our effects on the environment. It is easy to live life without worrying about ecological issues that do not directly effect our day, especially when the issues are derived from the need for a strong economy. Though I am using materials that are sometimes extracted in damaging ways, the benefit lies in the permanence of the metal. These materials will last just as long as the environmental troubles that we have created, and the point is just to be aware of the footprint we leave, even if our society can't function without the precious things Earth has to offer.

1. (<https://student.societyforscience.org/article/why-are-bees-vanishing-pesticides-disease-other-threats>)